

PATENT
W&B Ref. No. : INF 2284-US
Atty. Dkt. No. INFNWB0073

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 12, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-16 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended. Claims 9 and 17-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-8 and 12-16 have been allowed. New claim 22 has been added to recite aspects of the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments and the new claim do not introduce new matter.

Information Disclosure Request

In the Office Action dated January 12, 2006, the Examiner states that the Applicants are required to submit the references and/or background information described in the Description of the Related Art section of the disclosure. Applicants respond that there are no references cited in the Description of the Related Art section of the disclosure, and the information described in the Description of the Related Art section of the disclosure is commonly known to those skilled in the art.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oehler et al. (US patent 6,518,900) or Nomura et al. (US patent 6,907,555).

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base claim. Applicants have amended claim 10 to be an independent claim and include the limitations of the independent claim upon which it depended. Furthermore, Claim 11 has also been amended to depend upon now independent claim 10. Therefore, the claims 10 and 11 are believed to be allowable, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

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